

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
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www.kmlchurch.org

December 30 & 31, 2017

5:00 PM, 9:00 AM, & 11:00 AM

LESSONS and CAROLS SUNDAY



Is Christmas over? Perhaps your life has returned to normal after Christmas. Perhaps year end business—effects from new tax laws—has you scurrying about. Perhaps expectations of a picture perfect holiday have left you more burdened with frustration and guilt.

May this time of worship remind us that Christmas is God's gift of Emmanuel, God-with-us. Thus, in every moment, in every circumstance may we breath the Angels's declaration: Glory to God in the highest!

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

GATHERING CAROL

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”
Verses 1 & 4

ELW 275

OUR NEED for a SAVIOR

LESSON

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The Lord GOD said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- Ⓟ Almighty God,
- ☞ **you created us to live in fellowship with you and in harmony with all of your creation, but we have turned away from you. Sometimes we feel hatred of you. At times we want to love you but cannot find it in ourselves to do so. Forgive us. By your Holy Spirit draw us to yourself, that we can worship again your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- Ⓟ God has not forgotten our abandoned us in our need. God has sent to us a Savior. In him we are forgiven. Through him we serve so our broken world can be restored. Let us believe this good news of Christmas.
- ☞ **In Christ we are forgiven and made new. Amen.**

CAROL

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW 288

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- Ⓟ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☞ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Ⓟ Almighty God,
- ☞ **you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE PROMISES of a SAVIOR

(sit)

LESSON

A Just Lawmaker

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"Joy to the World"
Verses 1 & 4

ELW 267

LESSON

A Righteous King

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"
Verses 1 & 4

ELW 282

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. ¹⁰Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"Let All Together Praise Our God"
Verses 1-3 & 5

ELW 287

THE GIFT of a SAVIOR

LESSON

God with us...

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"Away in a Manger"

ELW 277

LESSON**... in humility ...****Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn..

A The word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God.**CAROL***“O Little Town of Bethlehem”***ELW 279**

Verses 1 & 3

LESSON**... making us children ...****Galatians 4:4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

A The word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God.**CAROL***“Love Has Come”***ELW 292****LESSON****... of God.****John 3:16-17**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

A The word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God.**CAROL***“All My Heart Again Rejoices”***ELW 273**

Verses 1 & 3

OUR RESPONSE to the SAVIOR

LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

CAROL

“From Heaven Above”

ELW 268

Verses 1 & 3

HOLY BAPTISM (5:00 PM)

Lila Stone Fogleman

(see page 227)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Thanksgiving: For the baptism of Lila Stone Fogleman, daughter of Nick & Katie; for the marriage of Nathan Hagge & Amanda Filler

Illness: Marvin Andersen, Donna Crouse, Jr Green (husband of Marvel), Eunice Grunberg, Virginia Jensen, Sheri Tipton, Ed White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Lindsay Mack, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Advent is an annual reminder that God is patient with us – patiently forgiving us again and again; while giving us – again and again – all we need to live as his disciples. In response, Sunday after Sunday – again and again – we give our offerings in thankfulness to God. Thank you for your faithful giving!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“From Heaven Above”

ELW 268

Verses 10 & 12

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
and set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do
to rock a prince so great as you.

12 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart,
that you and I may never part.

OFFERING PRAYER

P God with us:

C You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**13 My heart for very joy now leaps;
my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must sing with joyful tongue
the sweetest ancient cradle-song:**

**14 "Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**☩ Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**☩ Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
☩ Let every heart receive your Savior.**

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*“Let Our Gladness Have No End”
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

**ELW 291
ELW 270**

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**☩ On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.
☩ As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the
gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

G Amen.

SENDING CAROL

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW 290

DISMISSAL

P Glory to God in the highest!

G Peace to God’s people on earth!

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

† † †

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Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a “City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry” and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for nearly 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Paul Moessner	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Education Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Amanda Zasada	Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew	Staff Treasurer
Sheri Rose	Financial Secretary
Søren Johnson	Assist. Bldg. Superintendent
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Director of Children’s Music
Danny Bos	Handbell Director/Assist. to the Bldg. Superintendent
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.

Ushers	Bob Woodworth Glenn Anderson Daniel Collett Marcy Madison Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Shirleen Collett Jinette Cswercko Karen Wolf Sharon Anderson
Crucifer	Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes	Clara Kidder Anna Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.

Lector	
Ushers	Linda Johnson Ken Johnson Lee Johnson Julie O'Doherty Norm Sack
Greeters	Rosemary Tessin Julie King
Crucifer	Nicole Campbell
Acolytes	Charlie Campbell Rachel Stouffer

WORSHIP + GROW + SERVE

HOLY COMMUNION All who

are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children’s bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

NURSERY is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

ATTENDANCE CARDS All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held January 14 & 21 from 12—2 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office and let us know if you will need childcare.

E-NEWS & SOCIAL MEDIA If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.



TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ This Sunday, 12/31, we'll have a Continental breakfast. Join us again on Sunday, 1/7, for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is, \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger. If you're thinking about volunteering in 2018, we hope you'll consider helping with set up, prep/cook, and/or clean up after breakfast on Sunday mornings, as a way for you to volunteer. Please talk to Jim, or let the church office know. We would appreciate your help! Thanks.

ADULT FORUM Join us again on Sunday mornings beginning 1/7 in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** No Forum **NEXT WEEK:** TBD

POINSETTIAS were given to the glory of God by LeClare Steffen in memory of husband, Arnold Steffen and parents, Leo & Clara Gardiner

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL No Sunday School this Sunday (12/31) but beginning 1/7, join us again each Sunday on the 2nd floor for children 2 years—8th grade. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM. On 1/7, the Sunday School rotational lessons will begin a six week study of The Lord’s Prayer. “Teach Me to Pray” has six workshops: art, cooking, science, music, movie, and games. Each workshop features an element of prayer. The children will learn to praise God for being a wonderful and powerful creator, tell him about their sins, thank God for all the things he does and gives to us, and then ask God to help us and others. They will learn that Jesus gave us the Lord’s Prayer so we would know how to pray. In addition, we will be learning Bible verses and the Books of the Bible. It will be fun, informative, and full of worship!

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM No Sunday School this Sunday (12/31) but beginning 1/7, join us again each Sunday in the Youth Center for Forum at 10:10 AM.

TV BROADCAST SPONSORSHIPS We are welcoming sponsorships for the weekly televised broadcast of our worship service. You can sponsor a broadcast in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone’s birthday or anniversary, etc. The cost for sponsoring one broadcast is currently \$175 (it may increase in the new year). Six services are available for sponsorship in December (5 Sundays + Christmas Eve). Sponsorship forms are available at the Welcome Desk and in the church office. You can go to our website and donate there as well.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLE The 2018 sign-up sheets are available. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze by donating altar flowers or the eternal candle each week in 2017. Donating altar flowers is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select. The Altar Flower and Eternal Candle sign-up is located in the Narthex, just before you enter the Sanctuary.

SIMPLY GIVING UPDATE FOR 2018 PLEDGE If you have made a change to your pledge for 2018 and your offerings are made through Simply Giving, please be sure to contact the office to allow us to make that change. You may notify Lauri Askew (402-341-7761 or lauri@kmlchurch.org) or just respond to this e-mail and we'll make that change for you.

PASTOR’S CLASS Pastor Olaf Roynesdal will be teaching a class on the Augsburg Confession (the Confessio Augustana) which is the foundational doctrinal document of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The six-week class will begin 1/3, at 10:30 AM (and if there is interest, the same on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM). If you need a copy of the Augsburg Confession, twenty copies have been ordered at a cost of \$13.00

We praise God for Christ's birth.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Table with 3 columns: Day, Bible Reference, and Text. Rows include Sunday (Luke 2:22-40), Monday (Isaiah 61:10-62:3), Tuesday (Galatians 4:4-7), Wednesday (Ecclesiastes 3:1-15), Thursday (2 Corinthians 6:1-10), Friday (Isaiah 43:16-21), Saturday (Psalm 148), and Sunday (Mark 1:4-11).

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about when you waited a long time for something. What was it like waiting, and what was it like when the waiting was over?
• What do you think Mary was feeling after the birth of Jesus?
• When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus in the temple, they praised God. What would you have done when you saw Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 148.

Read the psalm three times slowly with reflective pauses between the readings. What word or phrase captures your thinking and imagination? The psalm encourages all that God has created to give praise to God. Use this psalm as a basis for writing your own psalm of praise honoring Christ's birth. Use familiar images and ideas.

Pray: Lord God, thank you for Jesus, through whom we are adopted as your children. Let all you have made praise you! Amen.

SERVICE

In the temple in Jerusalem, Simeon and Anna encouraged and blessed two young, first-time parents, Mary and Joseph. Think of some way of supporting parents of young children in your congregation or community.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Take time this New Year's Eve to reflect on the past year with family and friends. As the evening proceeds, talk about your memories together. What have you learned from your experiences this past year, and how does it connect with your faith in Jesus Christ? As you begin the new year, commit yourself to regular faith practices. Consider prayer, blessing others, and reading scripture daily. It becomes a way of life. Mealtime and bedtime prayers

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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

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each. You may use any edition of the Confession. Please sign-up by calling/or e-mailing the church office. Indicate 1) whether you would like to purchase the book and 2) morning or evening class.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Just a reminder that we will not meet in January or February due to possible weather conflicts. See you again on March 6!

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge on the 1st Saturday of each month (1/6, 4:30-5:00 PM) in the Bride's Room near Sanctuary and on the 3rd Sunday of each month (1/21, 10:00-11:00 AM) in the Fellowship Lounge.

BOOK GROUP Sunday, 1/14, 12:00 PM. Commonwealth by Ann Patchett. One Sunday afternoon in Southern California Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating's christening party uninvited. Before evening falls, he has kissed Franny's mother, Beverly thus setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages and the joining of two families. Spanning five decades explores how this chance encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children. Told in humor and heartbreak is a meditation on inspiration and the ownership of stories. Join us for a discussion of this book.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, 1/18, 11:30 AM at Kountze Memorial - Cost \$10. Jeff Senn will tell of his work with the brand new Hope Lodge, part of the work of the American Cancer Society. Please RSVP by Tuesday, 1/16, to the church office or Pastor Paul (402-341-7761 or paul@kmlchurch.org).

CONGREGATIONAL GAME NIGHT Saturday, 1/27, 5:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Monopoly, Jenga, Scrabble, Catchphrase, Gin Rummy....what's your game? We will have them all! Join us for conversation, community, and a little competition at the Congregational Game Night. Pizza, salad, and beverages will be provided. Bring a dessert or snack to share. Have a fun game? Bring that as well! All ages welcome. RSVP to the church office by Friday, 1/26.

WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING Saturday, 2/10, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Join us for training of Communion Assistants, Lectors, and Ushers. All current servers and those who wish to serve in the future are encouraged to attend. Please call the church office to register.

KMLC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS Scholarship are funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up after the first of the year in the Church Office, or downloaded at www.kmlchurch.org. Applications are due 3/1. Applications received after this date will not be accepted. Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable, and recipients must re-apply each year. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 402-341-7761.

THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

December 31 Sunday

- New Year's Eve
No Sunday School
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
5:00 PM Filler & Hagge Wedding

January 1 Monday

- New Year's Day
OFFICE CLOSED

January 2 Tuesday

- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 3 Wednesday

- 10:30 AM Augsburg Confession Class
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 AM Augsburg Confession Class
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

January 4 Thursday

- 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Worship & Music

January 6 Saturday

- Epiphany
Homebound Communion
4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks
5:00 PM Worship

January 7 Sunday

- Baptism of Our Lord
Homebound Communion
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU

Table with 2 columns: Next Weekend's Lessons and Bible References. References include Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7, and Mark 1:4-11.

Saturday Attendance: 52

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 122 11:00: 52

Total: 174

Christmas Eve 4:00: 538 7:00: 222 11:00: 124

Christmas Day: 45

Total Christmas: 929

Offering:

- \$35,275.51 (Regular) \$10,386.00 (Specials)
\$20,452.00 (In the City for Good)